

UNCLASSIFIED

Department of State

6/19/80

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

CI 001

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INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 SY-05 DCT-02 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
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P R 192052Z JUN 80
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WACHDC PRIORITY 7380
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

SECTION 1 OF 2 SANTIAGO 3820

E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: PINS, CI, SHUM
SUBJ: INTERNAL SECURITY AND LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS

REF: SANTIAGO 3402

1. SUMMARY: EXTREMISTS PLANTED SMALL BOMBS IN TWO DOWNTOWN SANTIAGO HOTELS. TWO BOMB SQUAD MEMBERS WERE INJURED. AN ARMED GROUP COMMANDEERED A MILK TRUCK AND DISTRIBUTED ITS CONTENTS IN A POOR NEIGHBORHOOD. AN ALLEGED COMMUNIST CELL WAS BROKEN UP IN ANTOFAGASTA. THE CHILEAN FOREIGN MINISTER HAS BEEN ASKED BY RELATIVES TO LOOK INTO CASES OF CHILEANS, AND SOME ARGENTINES MARRIED TO CHILEANS, WHO DISAPPEARED IN ARGENTINA FROM 1973-78. THE GOC BANISHED A VALPARAISO MAN TO A NORTHERN TOWN FOR NINETY DAYS. MEANWHILE, THE MARCH INTERNAL EXILES STARTED TO RETURN FROM THEIR BANISHMENT. MORE CASE UPDATES. END SUMMARY.

2. THE TWO BOMBING INCIDENTS OCCURRED SATURDAY MORNING, JUNE 14. AT EACH HOTEL, A MAN LEFT BEHIND IN A ROOM HE HAD USED FOR THE NIGHT AN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE AND A TAPE RECORDER PLACED IN A WINDOW FACING THE STREET, PLAYING ANTI-GOVERNMENT STATEMENTS. IN THE FIRST HOTEL, EMPLOYEES INADVERTENTLY DETONATED THE DEVICE WHEN THEY ATTEMPTED TO ENTER THE ROOM. NO ONE WAS INJURED. TWO MEMBERS OF A NATIONAL INFORMATION CENTER (CNI) BOMB SQUAD RECEIVED SLIGHT INJURIES FORTY-FIVE MINUTES LATER, HOWEVER, WHILE ATTEMPTING TO DEACTIVATE A SIMILAR DEVICE IN THE SECOND HOTEL. REPORTEDLY THE MEDIA WAS ALERTED SHORTLY BEFORE THE FIRST EXPLOSION OCCURRED BY A MEMBER OF "THE RESISTANCE".

3. AN ESTIMATED SEVEN PERSONS, SOME OF THEM WOMEN, PARTICIPATED IN THE MILK TRUCK SEIZURE ON 7 JUNE. AFTER DIRECTING THE DRIVER TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF "LA VICTORIA" ON THE FRINGE OF SANTIAGO, THE GROUP, REPORTEDLY IDENTIFYING THEMSELVES AS A "COMMAND OF THE RESISTANCE", DRAPED A CHILEAN FLAG OVER THE TRUCK, SET UP A LOUDSPEAKER TO BROADCAST SLOGANS, AND THEN BEGAN DISTRIBUTING MILK PRODUCTS TO THE RESIDENTS. THEY THEN DEPARTED BEFORE POLICE ARRIVED. THE DAILY "LA TERCERA" REPORTED THAT A MOVEMENT OF THE REVOLUTIONARY LEFT (MIR) GROUP, NAMED THE "COMANDO ISABLE REQUELME," CLAIMED CREDIT IN A PUBLIC STATEMENT. THE GOC-OWNED "LA NACION" REPORTED, HOWEVER, THAT IT WAS CERTAIN THAT THE SEIZURE WAS THE WORK OF COMMON CRIMINALS FAKING POLITICAL MOTIVES IN ORDER TO COVER UP THEIR ACTIVITIES. (COMMENT: THIS INCIDENT SEEMS TO BE A REPLAY OF A SIMILAR SEIZURE LAST YEAR ALLEGEDLY CARRIED OUT BY THE MIR--SEE 79 SANTIAGO 2585--ALTHOUGH THIS TIME NO ONE GOT HURT.)

4. SECURITY FORCES IN ANTOFAGASTA ARRESTED 23 PERSONS DURING THE LAST WEEK IN MAY, CHARGING THEM WITH MEMBERSHIP IN A COMMUNIST PARTY CELL. THEY WERE ACCUSED OF PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTING SUBVERSIVE LITERATURE IN ANTOFAGASTA AND NEIGHBORING CITIES AND CHARGED WITH VIOLATING THE INTERNAL SECURITY LAW. A CIVILIAN JUDGE INDICATED 21 OF THE 23 PERSONS.

5. A DELEGATION OF WOMEN REPRESENTING FAMILIES OF 25 CHILEANS AND 3 ARGENTINES (MARRIED TO CHILEANS) MISSING IN ARGENTINA HAVE ASKED CHILEAN FOREIGN MINISTER ROJAS TO HELP IN FINDING OUT ABOUT THE DISAPPEARANCES, SOME GOING BACK TO 1975. IN ITS LETTER TO ROJAS, WHO SERVED AS CHILEAN AMBASSADOR IN ARGENTINA FROM 1973 THROUGH 1978, THE DELEGATION REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE FAMILIES HAD TAKEN A NUMBER OF LEGAL STEPS IN ARGENTINA TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE DISAPPEARANCES, BUT WITHOUT RESULT. SOURCES AT THE VICARIATE OF SOLIDARITY SAY THAT THE MINISTRY HAS NOT YET ISSUED A REPLY.

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

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Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part (X) In Full

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Date Declassify on Reason

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6. ON 23 MAY THE GOVERNMENT ORDERED HUMBERTO ESPINOZA ARAVENA TO SERVE 90 DAYS INTERNAL BANISHMENT IN THE NORTHERN MOUNTAIN TOWN OF CHAPIQUINA, NEAR ARICA. TWO MEMBERS OF THE CHILEAN NAVY REPORTEDLY DETAINED ESPINOZA IN VALPARAISO ON 19 MAY FOR POSSESSING AND DISTRIBUTING SUBVERSIVE LITERATURE, AND THEN TURNED HIM OVER TO THE POLICE. LAWYERS FOR ESPINOZA FILED A WRIT OF AMPARO ON HIS BEHALF AS WELL AS A COMPLAINT THAT HE HAD BEEN INJURED FROM BLOWS RECEIVED WHILE BEING DETAINED. THE VALPARAISO COURT OF APPEALS REJECTED THE WRIT BUT REFERRED THE COMPLAINT TO THE CRIMINAL COURTS. ON JUNE 5, THE SANTIAGO PRESS REPORTED THAT THE SUPREME COURT HAD CONFIRMED THE APPEALS COURT DECISION AND UPHOLD ESPINOZA'S INTERNAL BANISHMENT.

7. THE MAXIMUM 90 DAY PERIOD OF INTERNAL BANISHMENT HAS NOW ENDED FOR THE 17 PERSONS RELEGATED THIS PAST MARCH. THE GOC HAD SANCTIONED THE EIGHT SANTIAGO AND NINE VALPARAISO RESIDENTS, ALL MEN, FOR ACTIVITIES LINKED TO INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY (SEE SANTIAGO 1558 AND SANTIAGO 1694). LEGAL SOURCES SAY THAT WHILE THE GOVERNMENT PAID FOR THE TRIP OUT, THE MEN HAVE BEEN LEFT ON THEIR OWN TO GET BACK.

8. SOME CASE UPDATES:

--THE MILITARY PROSECUTOR IN CURICO HAS INDICTED 14 PERSONS FROM THE TALCA AREA, SOME OF WHOM ARE ALLEGED TO BE MEMBERS OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY WITH TIES TO THE CHURCH. (THE PERSONS HAD BEEN RELEASED EARLIER BY THE MILITARY PROSECUTOR IN TALCA FOR LACK OF EVIDENCE, BUT WERE SUBSEQUENTLY REARRESTED IN THE WAKE OF CRITICAL CHURCH COMMENTS. SEE SANTIAGO 3493). THEY ARE CHARGED VARIOUSLY WITH VIOLATIONS OF THE INTERNAL SECURITY AND ARMS CONTROL LAWS.

--THE TWO REMAINING MAY DAY DEMONSTRATION WITH CASES STILL PENDING (SANTIAGO 3101 AND REFTEL) ARE NOW OUT ON BAIL.

9. COMMENT: WE HAVE NOTED A RECENT TENDENCY OF GOC SOURCES TO DOWNPLAY POSSIBLE MIR INVOLVEMENT IN SOME TERRORIST OR ARMED PROPAGANDA INCIDENTS. AS WITH THE MILK TRUCK EPISODE (PARA 3) COMMON CRIMINALS ARE GETTING THE BLAME. INVESTIGATIONS POLICE CHIEF BAEZA EVEN GOES SO FAR AS TO CREDIT CRIMINALS WITH THE THREE BANK ROBBERIES ON APRIL 11 (SANTIAGO 2353). WHILE THERE REMAINS SOME DOUBT ON THE AUTHORSHIP OF INDIVIDUAL INCIDENTS, THE GOC APPARENTLY WANTS TO AVOID GLAMORIZING THE MIR AND/OR SUGGESTING THAT POLICE CONTROL EFFORTS ARE NOT SUCCESSFUL.

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